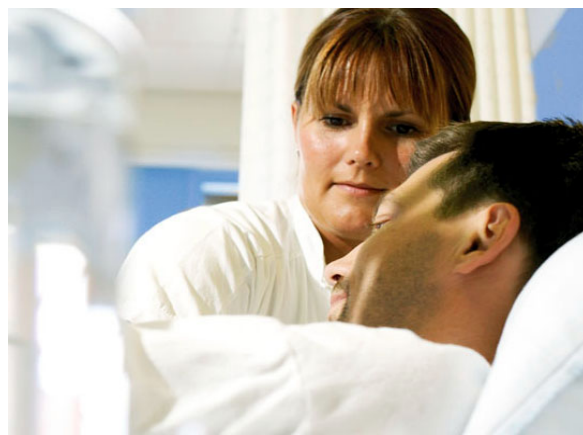
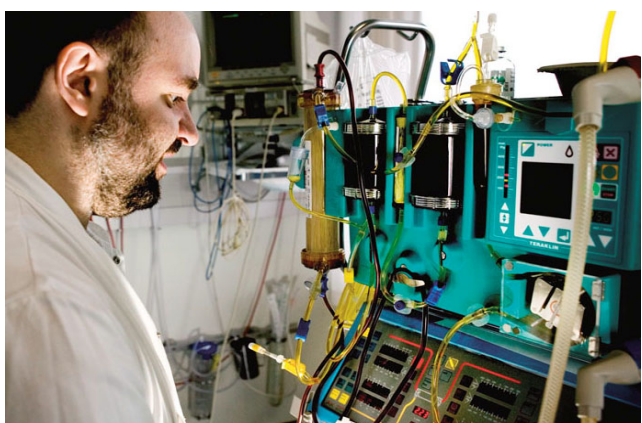


# The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group Annual Report 2005



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### Preface

It has been another very successful year for The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group (CARG). In 2005 CARG published five new reviews; one substantially updated review and 12 new protocols in the Cochrane Library. A further three reviews were transferred to CARG from the Infectious Diseases' Group.

In Issue 4, 2005 the Group published 24 Reviews and 48 protocols.

We now have approximately 524 members in our Group.

The CARG editorial office is located in Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

We would like to welcome two new members to the CARG Editorial Team, our Trials Search Co-ordinator: Karen Hovhannisyan and our new editor: Nicola Petrucci.

We said good bye to one of our other editors in 2005, Marcus Müllner. Marcus was an editor from 2001 to 2005. We would like to thank Marcus for his significant contribution to the work of the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all of our other editors for their efficient work in the editorial process.

Our work would not have been possible without financial support from The Copenhagen Hospital Corporation (H: S) and private foundations.

The future success of CARG is dependent upon our commitment to the principles and practice of evidence-based medicine through the dissemination of systematic reviews, which intended to provide busy clinicians with tools to aid in care of patients. It is important to stress that these tools still need to be combined with clinical experience and patient preferences.

We hope that the work of this Group will influence the quality of the entire speciality. Your participation, through writing reviews, peer reviewing, hand searching journals or translating articles is greatly valued. Our aim is to produce useful information for anaesthetists and other healthcare individuals worldwide.

The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group  
Copenhagen, February 2006



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## The Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration is an international organization that aims to help people make well-informed decisions about healthcare by preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of healthcare interventions.

### Collaborative Review Groups

A Collaborative Review Group (CRG) consists of individuals from around the world who share an interest in a particular health topic, in our case anaesthesiology. CRGs are co-ordinated by an editorial team, comprised of a co-ordinating editor, a number of other editors and the Group Co-ordinator. Other members of the CRG include authors (who write and update the systematic reviews); peer referees (individuals not involved with systematic review who offer editorial suggestions prior to publication); hand-searchers, consumers (people utilising the prevention or health services), and other interested parties.

The primary tasks of the CRG are to conduct and regularly update systematic reviews of prevention and health care issues within the scope of the group and to create a specialised register of methodologically sound controlled studies, published and unpublished in all languages, relevant to the topics of the CRG.

### The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group

The CARG conducts systematic reviews of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and other controlled Clinical Trials (CCTs) of interventions evaluating outcomes in:

- **Anaesthesia**
- **Emergency medicine**
- **Perioperative medicine**
- **Prehospital medicine**
- **Intensive care medicine**
- **Resuscitation**

The Group avoids duplication of work by collaborating closely with other Collaborative Review Groups, which have overlapping scopes, such as the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group, the Cochrane Injuries Group and the Cochrane Pain, Palliative Care and Supportive Care Group. The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group is committed to collaborate on topics that are on the borderline between Groups, both in performing the reviews as well as in the

editorial process. If a review potentially overlaps with another Cochrane Group, that Group is asked to contribute to the editorial process by providing a peer-reviewer.

## CARG Editorial Office

CARG Editorial Office is located in Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

**Tom Pedersen, MD, DMSc**  
**Co-ordinating Editor**

**Ann M Møller, MD**  
**Co-ordinating Editor**

**Jane Cracknell, RN, BA**  
**Co-ordinator & Managing Editor**

**Karen Hovhannisyan, MD**  
**Trials Search Co-ordinator**

**Anne Roelsgaard**  
**Communication and fund raiser co-ordinator**

**Nete Villebro RN, MI**  
**Consumer co-ordinator**

## CARG Editors

- Jane Ballantyne, USA
- Michael Bennett, Australia
- John Carlisle, UK (Criticisms Editor)
- Peter Choi, Canada
- Anna Lee, China
- Ann Møller, Denmark
- Nathan Pace, USA (Statistical Editor)
- Tom Pedersen, Denmark
- Andrew Smith, UK
- Martin Tramèr, Switzerland
- Martha Delgado, Colombia
- Mathew Zacharias, New Zealand
- Harald Herkner, Austria
- Nicola Petrucci, Italy

## CARG Members

The CARG has a broad membership of individuals, many of whom are active and contribute to the work of the CARG by performing systematic reviews, editing, peer refereeing, handsearching, translating or extracting data.

Publication in medical journals and in *The Cochrane Library*; the CARG website; the CARG newsletter, and intense recruitment at conferences have all contributed to the CARG's rapid growth.

## Cochrane reviews

Cochrane reviews (the principal output of the Collaboration) are published electronically in successive issues of *The Cochrane Library's* Database of Systematic Reviews. The preparation and maintenance of Cochrane reviews is the responsibility of international Collaborative Review Groups (CRGs), such as the CARG.

The CRGs cover most of the important areas of health care. The members of these groups: researchers, health care professionals, consumers, and others, share an interest in generating reliable, up-to-date evidence relevant to the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of particular health problems or groups of problems.

A Cochrane Systematic Review develops in three stages: title, protocol and review. The title of a review is initially registered within a CRG. The protocol prospectively sets out what is being tested, why, and how it will be done. The complete review adheres to the protocol in order to maintain uniformity and minimize bias. A Systematic Review is a review of studies in which evidence has been systematically searched for, studied, assessed, and summarized according to predetermined criteria.

## Editorial Process

### Titles

To register a title with the Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group, a potential author submits a registration form. CARG title registration forms are on request from the editorial office.

The registration form includes:

- Contact details for the authors
- A preliminary title
- A synopsis describing the background, participants, interventions and outcomes

All potential new titles are sent to all CARG editors for commenting on. Once the editors are satisfied with the content and scope of the question, and the Review Group Co-ordinator has excluded potential duplication of work or conflicts of interest with other Cochrane Groups, the title is registered.

Authors are then notified of the title registration and receive support materials including:

- Instructions for authors which contains:
  - Guidelines
  - Information on the editorial process
  - Examples
  - References

### Checklists for protocol/review submission

- RevMan 4.2 information
- A contact ID
- Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (which can be downloaded)
- The Cochrane Reviewers' Handbook Glossary (which can be downloaded)
- The Cochrane Style Basic Guide

Authors are encouraged to contact the Review Group Co-ordinator with any questions or concerns.

The editorial office requests that the protocol is submitted to the editorial office within six months of title registration, or the title may be withdrawn.

### **Protocols**

Protocols and reviews are prepared using the Cochrane Collaboration's Review Manager (RevMan 4.2, software which can be downloaded from [www.cochrane.org/cochrane/revman](http://www.cochrane.org/cochrane/revman))

The Review Group Co-ordinator acknowledges receipt of the protocol in the editorial office, and forwards the protocol, along with guidelines for editing ('Tips for editors and peer referees') to the assigned CARG content editor two peer reviewers and consumer panel to evaluate and comment on the review title, background, objectives, selection criteria, search strategy, methodology and the language of the protocol.

It is expected that peer-reviewers and consumer panel should submit their comments within two weeks of receiving a protocol or review. All comments are then sent to the CARG editorial office where they will be forwarded onto the content editor. The content editor will, from all comments, make a plan of action for the author to follow. All original unblinded comments, plus plan of action, are forwarded to the authors. The author should return the revised protocol to the editorial office along with a detailed covering letter that describes the changes.

Authors are entitled to ignore suggestions made by the editors. It is expected, however, that they should respond to all comments and criticisms made by the editors, even if they do not agree with them. The revised protocol and cover letter are again forwarded to the content editor for further evaluation. Peer-reviewers are sent copies of all original unblinded comments and the plan of action for their interest. Upon final acceptance by editorial team and the CARG editorial office, the protocol is submitted to the Cochrane Library for inclusion in the next module.

## Reviews

The editorial office requests that the draft review is submitted to the editorial office within 12 months of publication of the protocol.

The Review Group Co-ordinator acknowledges receipt of the review in the editorial office, and forwards the review, along with guidelines for editing ('Tips for editors and peer referees') to the same Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group content editor peer reviewers and consumer panel who evaluated the protocol plus CARG's statistical editor; special attention is drawn to statistical methods, the discussion, the conclusions, and the implications for practice.

The authors should return the revised review to the editorial office along with a detailed covering letter that describes the changes made. Authors are entitled to ignore suggestions made by the statistical and content editors. It is expected, however, that they should respond to all comments and criticisms made by the editors, even if they do not agree with them. The revised review and cover letter are again forwarded to the content and statistical editors for further evaluation. The peer-reviewers and consumer representative will NOT see the revised review again. They are sent a copy of all original unblended comments plus the editors' plan of action for their interest. Should any discrepancies occur between the editorial team and the author, the CARG co-ordinating editors will be called upon to resolve the disagreement. Upon final acceptance by editorial team and the CARG editorial office, the review is submitted to *The Cochrane Library* for publication.

## Updating

Authors are expected to include new trials and update their reviews biannually, or in response to comments and criticism. The editorial office will provide each reviewer with additional references within the scope of the review from the specialized register on a biannual basis. The same CARG content and statistical editors who evaluated the review will edit the updated review in the same manner. Reviews, which remain un-revised for more than two years, will be flagged automatically as such on CARG Publications and Productions in *The Cochrane Library* 2005.

In Issue 4, 2005 CARG published 24 Reviews and 48 protocols in total.

CARG published five new reviews; one substantially updated review and 12 new protocols in 2005.

## Publications in Cochrane Library, 2005

### Issue 4, 2005

#### NEW REVIEWS

Inhaled nitric oxide for the postoperative management of pulmonary hypertension in infants and children with congenital heart disease

Optimal timing for intravenous administration set replacement, *Bizzarro M, Gross I*

#### SUBSTANTIVELY UPDATED REVIEWS

Transient neurologic symptoms (TNS) following spinal anaesthesia with lidocaine versus other local anaesthetics, *Zaric D, Christiansen C, Pace NL, Punjasawadwong Y*

#### NEW PROTOCOLS

Infraclavicular brachial plexus block for regional anaesthesia of the lower arm, *Chin KJ, Chee VTW, Lee B*

### **Issue 3, 2005**

#### NEW REVIEWS

Interventions for protecting renal function in the perioperative period, *Zacharias M, Gilmore ICS, Herbison GP, Sivalingam P, Walker RJ*

#### NEW PROTOCOLS

Antibiotic prophylaxis for surgical introduction of intracranial ventricular shunts, *Ratilal B, Costa J, Sampaio C*

Antithrombin III for critically ill patients, *Afshari A, Møller AM, Wetterslev J*

Intensive insulin therapy and strict glucose control for critically ill patients, *Henderson WR, Chittock D, Dhingra V, Doyle-Waters M, Fitzgerald M, Ronco J*

Supplemental perioperative steroids for surgical patients with adrenal insufficiency, *Yong SL, Coulthard P, Esposito M, Marik P*

Topical anaesthetics for repair of dermal lacerations, *Eidelman A, Weiss JM, Enu IK, McNicol E, Lau J, Carr DB*

### **Issue 2, 2005**

#### NEW REVIEWS

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and perioperative bleeding in paediatric tonsillectomy, *Cardwell M, Siviter G, Smith A*

#### NEW PROTOCOLS

Recompression and adjunctive therapy for decompression illness, *Bennett MH, Lehm JP, Mitchell SJ, Wasiak J*

Topical anaesthesia alone versus topical anaesthesia with intracameral lignocaine for phacoemulsification, *Nambiar AK, Allan BD*

## Issue 1, 2005

### NEW REVIEWS

Patient controlled intravenous opioid analgesia versus continuous epidural analgesia for pain after intra-abdominal surgery, *Werawatganon T, Charuluxanun S*

### NEW PROTOCOLS

Nitrates for the prevention of cardiac morbidity and mortality in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery, *Choi PT, Beattie WS, Bender JS, Wijeyesundera DN*

Nutritional support for critically ill children, *Joffe A, Anton N, Lequier L, Hartling L, Vandermeer B, Crumley E, Larsen B, Klassen TP*

Preoxygenation for tracheal suctioning in ventilated adults, *Wynne R, Botti M, Paratz J*

Use of hyperbaric versus isobaric bupivacaine for spinal anaesthesia for caesarean section, *Sia ATH, Lim Y, Tan KH*

## *The Cochrane Library*

*The Cochrane Library* is issued four times per year, on CD-ROM and via the Internet. The CARG maintains a module in *The Cochrane Library* that contains:

- The names of all CARG's editors and editorial staff, published authors, peer reviewers, hand searchers, translators and consumers
- The scope of the CARG
- The topics addressed by the CARG
- The reviews, protocols and titles supported by the CARG
- The editorial process for reviews and protocols in the CARG
- Information on the CARG Specialized Register
- Other information about the CARG

## Promotional Activities

### **New publishing agreement with *Anesthesia and Analgesia* (A&A)**

The Cochrane Anaesthesia Review Group has a publishing agreement with A&A. All newly published CARG reviews will be submitted to A&A. Authors are made aware that the editors' of A&A may either decide to publish their Cochrane abstract in a new Cochrane Corner or the full review. (All full reviews will need to be edited in accordance with A&A's style guidelines and will enter A&A's editorial process.)

### **Lectures, Conferences and Meetings**

In order to increase awareness and participation in the CARG, members of the editorial office represented the CARG in the following ways:

## Lectures

- Pedersen, T. Decision making in anaesthesia: The relative importance of evidence and cost-effectiveness. 13<sup>th</sup> Euroanaesthesia Meeting, ESA, Vienna, Austria, June 2005
- Møller, AM. Cochrane Panel. Evidence-based medicine. Bridging the gaps. The International Anaesthesia Research Society (IARS). 79<sup>th</sup> Clinical and Scientific Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, March 2005
- Møller, AM. EBM: Do we need to care? SSAI, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2005
- Møller, AM. EBM in Anaesthesia: Has it improved our practice? SSAI, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2005

## Conferences and Meetings

- 13<sup>th</sup> Euroanaesthesia Meeting, ESA, Vienna, Austria, June 2005
- 7<sup>th</sup> CARG Editors' Meeting, Vienna, Austria, June 2005
- 13<sup>th</sup> Cochrane Colloquium, Melbourne, Australia October 2005
- 79<sup>th</sup> Clinical and Scientific Congress of the International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS), Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, March 11 - 15 2005
- 28<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Scandinavian Society of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2005.

## CARG Articles

Pedersen T. Does perioperative pulse oximetry improve outcome ? Seeking the best available evidence to answer the clinical question. *Best Practice & Clinical Anaesthesiology* 2005; 19: 111-123.

## Posters

Cracknell, J, Villebro, N, Cracknell M. What are the barriers preventing authors from reading written instructions? Poster: 13th Cochrane Colloquium, Melbourne (2005)

## Cochrane Anaesthesia News

Cochrane Anaesthesia News, the CARG Newsletter, is published annually. It is printed and distributed to CARG members and other interested parties worldwide. It is also published on the CARG website. In 2002 The Danish Royal Library acknowledged CARG News as a publication and the newsletter was conferred an ISSN number:

ISSN: 1602-6349

Keytitle: Cochrane Anaesthesia News

## Website

The website [www.carg.dk](http://www.carg.dk) contains information about:

- The CARG editors and CARG editorial office
- CARG activities
- The scope of the CARG
- The topics addressed by the CARG
- The reviews, protocols and titles supported by the CARG
- CARG membership
- Writing a systematic review
- Other information about the CARG, including Cochrane Anaesthesia News
- The Cochrane Collaboration and anaesthesia-related entities, through Web links
- Introduction to consumers

## Specialized Register (SR-ANAESTH)

The CARG maintains a register of more than 25,000 RCTs and CCTs related to: anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, intensive care medicine, pre-hospital medicine, resuscitation and emergency medicine. The register is maintained on ProCite software, and searches for trials are executed quarterly. Trials included in the register are tagged SR-ANAESTH, and the tag term may be searched in the Cochrane Library. The register has now been submitted to CENTRAL. Access to the register is available to authors and other members of the CARG.

## Handsearching

Members of the CARG are actively involved in handsearching anaesthesia journals in order to identify RCTs and CCTs for inclusion in systematic reviews, the Specialized Register, the Cochrane CENTRAL Register of Controlled Trials and The National Library of Medicine, CARG's HS-ANAESTH results have been submitted to [NECC@P](mailto:NECC@P) Central.

Currently we have three active handsearchers. In order to increase our handsearching activities, we are looking for new handsearchers.

## Consumer representation

The consumer team has been actively involved in commenting on CARG protocols and reviews.

We currently have four consumers. We are always eager to recruit new members.

Good teamwork between the consumers' network members helps them to discuss 'difficult' reviews, and produce clear, precise and high quality comments from the consumers' perspective. Their highly important work ensures that reviews and protocols are understood by a wide range of people from varying backgrounds.

## CARG's goals for 2006

- To hold a Review Group Editors' Meeting in Copenhagen.
- To offer authors individual training in writing systematic reviews.
- To offer a mentoring system for new editors.
- To develop a list of Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care titles to offer potential authors.
- To publish a further 6 reviews and 10 protocols.
- To continue to improve the editorial process, concentrating on improving "Tips for peer reviewers and editors"
- To further disseminate knowledge of evidence-based medicine with other organizations and individuals.
- To improve the involvement of developing countries.
- To continue our successful co-operation with *Anesthesia and Analgesia*.
- To recruit and involve more new consumers in the editorial process.
- To recruit and involve more handsearchers in CARG handsearching activities.
- To publish our Evidence-Based Anaesthesia book with Cambridge University Press.
- To update all the CARG reviews.

## Funders

- Copenhagen Hospital Corporation (H: S)
- Foundation 1870
- Danielsen Foundation
- Augustinus Foundation
- Erna Hamilton Foundation
- King Christian the X Foundation
- Wedell-Wedellsborgs Foundation
- Rigshospitalet Jubilee Foundation
- Jakob Madsen og Hustru Olga Madsens Foundation
- Lippmann Foundation
- The Cochrane Steering Group

## Budget

<b>Budget (in Danish Kroner)</b>	<b>Funds</b>
Income H:S	920.000
Private Funds	305.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.225.000</b>
Expenditures:	786.132
Salaries and consultants	11.104
Travel, meetings, promotion	213.943
IT/Software, Literature	34.309
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1.045.488</b>